GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1478
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
SETTINGUP OF WELL EQUIPPED NURING HOMES
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the State Governments to implement the provisions of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques 9Regulation and Prevention of Misused) Act, strictly;

(b) if so, the response of the State Governments in this regard ;

(c) whether various hospitals in the country are still doing sex determnation and sex selection tests ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this practice?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI. A. RAJA)

(a) to (d): The implementation of the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition ofSex Selection) Act rest with the States and Union Territories. They have been advised to implement the provisions of the Act and Rules in letter and spirit including wide publicity thereof. The States/UTs are implementing the same. As per the reports received from various States/UTs more than 20700 clinics have been registered, 397 complaints have been filed in the Court/Police against violators of the law and 198 ultrasound machines have been seized/sealed. However, since the detection/disclosure of the sex of foetus of pregnant women as well selection of sex before conception are secretly resorted to by parities in collusion with each other, it is very difficult to unearth such cases. Funds have been released to States/UTs for implementation of the Act including use of decoys for unearthing the cases of violations of the Act, So that the offenders can be booked. Consequently certain cases relating to detection/disclosure of sex of foetus have been booked in Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and other states/UTs.